

To: Amato, Paul[Amato.Paul@epa.gov]
From: Goldmann, Elizabeth
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Subject: weekly

Villages at Vigneto: EPA will provide comments on a Corps Public Notice (PN) for the proposed Phase 1 Villages at Vigneto (formerly known as Whetstone Ranch) located in Benson, Arizona. The original permit issued in June, 2006 authorized the fill of 51 acres of ephemeral tributaries of the San Pedro River for master-planned development. Purchased by El Dorado Benson LLC in 2014, the new applicant proposes expanding the 8,212 acre project to 12,339-acres. Claiming the timing on future development phases is uncertain, the Corps is only considering impacts to waters within Phase 1 (8,212 acres). With listing of the yellow-billed cuckoo, the Corps has initiated section 7 ESA consultation. With declining ground water levels and endangered species listing, local environmental NGOs are opposing the project. The Corps will consider additional special conditions to the original 404 permit based on the outcome of their re-evaluation process. (Goldmann x23398)